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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 /091 W
----------110815 131440Z /43
R 120943Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7503
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19668

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, CB, TH
SUBJ: IENG SARY VISIT TO BANGKOK

REF A. BANGKOK 18700 (NOTAL) B. BANGKOK 19020

1. SUMMARY: CAMBODIAN DEPPM IENG SARY IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT BANGKOK JWQAVQQYNI FOCUS OF THE ALKS WILL BE THE DIFFICULT BORDER PROBLEMS, THE OPENING OF EMASSIES AND TRADE. VISIT OCCURS AGAINST BACKGROUND OF GROWING TENSIONS AMONG THE REGIONS COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, WHO ARE WOOING THE THAIS WITH INCREASING ARDOR. END SUMMARY

2. BANGKOK AND PHNOM PENH ANNOUNCED JULY 10 THAT CAMBODIAN CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPPREM IENG SARY WOULD VISIT BANGKOK "SOON". ALTHOUGH THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS VAGUE ABOUT DATES FOR REASONS OF SECURITY, THE VISIT IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 14-17. IENG SARY WILL ARRIVE IN THAILAND BY RAOD AT THE POIPET-ARANYAPRATHET BORDER CROSSING, WHERE HE WILL BE MET BY FONMIN UPPADIT AND CAMBODIAN AMB TO LAOS SAM SAN. INASMUCH AS THE ARANYAPRATHET AREA HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF FREQUENT

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SKIRMISHING, INTENSIVE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS ARE BEING UNDER
TAKEN. DURING THE VISIT, IENG SARY IS SCHEDULED TO CNFER
WITH PM KRIANGSAK AND FONMIN UPPADIT. HE IS ALSO SCHEDULED
TO BE RECEIVED BY THE KING.

3. FONMIN UPPADIT TOLD THE PRESS JULY 10 THAT BORDER PROBLEMS
WILL BE THE MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WITH IENG SARY. MFA
OFFICAL TOLD US JULY 11 THAT THE VISIT SHOULD BE VIEWED IN
CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL SCENE WHICH HAS CHANGED REMARKABLY
SINCE UPPADIT VISIT PHNOM IN JAN AND EARLY FEB 78. SRV-
CAMBODIAN CONFLICT HAS CONTINUED. REGIONAL RELATIONS ARE
COMPLICATED FURTHER BY THE GROWING TENSIONS BETWEEN CHINA
AND VIETNAM, BOTH OF WHOM ARE ACTIVELY COURTING THAILAND.
BOTH HANOI AND PHNOM PENH HAVE ALSO BEEN ACTIVE DIPLOMATICALLY
ELSEWHERE IN THE ASIAN REGION. PEKING HAS PUBLICIZED ITS ROLE
IN FOSTERING BETTER THAI-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS. VISIT BY IENG
SARY TO BANGKOK IS A CRITICAL FOCAL PINT FOR DEVELOPING
REGIONAL RELATIONS, ACCORDING TO THE MFA OFFICIAL. FAILURE,
HE SAID, WOULD FORFEIT FOR SOME TIME THE CHANCE FOR LESSENED
TENSIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND CAMBODIA AND FURTHER CONFUSE
THE REGIONAL SCENE.

4. MFA DOES NOT RPT NOT ANTICIPATE DURING THE VISIT FORMAL
AGREEMENTS TO RESOLVE BORDER ISSUES, SUCH AS BORDER PACT.
THROUGH TALKS BY IENG SARY WITH PM KRIANGSAK AND FONMIN
UPPADIT, MFA HOPES THAT THE DIALOGUE OF JAN-FEB CAN BE
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EXTENDED, GREATER CONFIDENCE CAN BE ACHIEVED, AND RESTRAIN
BY ALL SIDES REALIZED ON THE THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER. OFFICIAL
SAID THAIS ARE REALISTIC IN KNOWING THAT GENUINE RESOLUTION
OF BORDER DIFFICULTIES CANNOT RPT NOT BE EASILY OR QUICKLY
ATTAINED.

5. RTG IS PREPARED TO REOPEN IS EMB IN PHNOM PENH AND TO
ALLOW CAMBODIANS TO REOPEN THEIRS IN BANGKOK. IN JAN, IENG
SARY SAID THAT EMBASSIES COULD BE OPENED IN SIX MONTHS IF
RELATIONS IMPROVED. MFA OFFICIAL NOTED BORDER INDICENTS
DROPPED SHARPLY SINCE EARLY MAY AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN
NO SINGLE SERIOUS INCIDENT SINCE THEN. THAIS HOPE THIS INDI-
THAT CAMBODIA HAS DECIDED THAT IT WISHES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS
WITH THAILAND AND THAT EMBASSIES CAN NOW, THEREFORE, BE OPENED.
BANGKOK IS ALSO PREPARED TO RESUME THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
BORDER LIAISON OFFICES IN POIPET AND ARANYAPRATHET AS AN
ALTERNATIVE OR IN ADDITION TO REOPENING EMBASSIES.
ALTHOUGH THE THAIS HOPE TO OPEN EMBASSIES, BANGKOK
SEEKS ANY AVAILABLE MEANS FOR DIALOGUE TO TRY TO TREAT
BORDER PROBLEMS ON A CONTINUING BASIS, THE MFA OFFICIAL
COMMENTED.

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6. TRADE THROUGH KOH SADECH ISLAND AND THROUGH POIPET-
ARANYAPRATHET WILL BE THE THIRD MAJOR ITEM ON THE AGENDA.
FINALLY, MFA EXPECTS IENG SARY TO PROVIDE THAI LEADERS
ITS VIEW OF THE CAMBODIAN-VIETNAMESE CONFLICT IN AN
ATTEMPT TO COUNTER ANY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION SRV DEPUTY
FONMIN PHAN HIEN MAY HAVE MADE DURING HIS JULY 3-4 STOPOVER
IN BANGKOK (REF B).

7. COMMENT: PROGRESS ON THE BORDER ISSUE DURING
IENG SARY'S VISIT IS A PARAMOUNT OBJECTIVE OF THE
RTG, FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND SECURITY REASONS. CALL
ON THE KING IS INDICATION THAT THAIS INTEND TO GO TO GREAT
LENGHTS TO IMPRESS IENG SARY AND TO AMELIORATE THE TRYING
BORDER SITUATION.
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